

France, U.S. End Summit

Discussions, Not Decisions, In Iceland Talks

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REYKJAVIK, Iceland, June 1.—President Nixon and French President Georges Pompidou concluded their two-day conference here today without a communique or official statement, but after having laid the basis for new approaches to Atlantic problems.

President Nixon returned to Washington in the late afternoon and to the Watergate controversy while President Pompidou returned to Paris and his own domestic problems, apparently not having made enough concessions to disturb his Gaullist heritage or supporters.

The French leader, who was expected to hold a news conference before his departure, merely walked into the doorway of a large press room prepared for him and made a few comments with newsmen and photographers jammed around him.

Amid the Gallic disorder, he delivered himself of a Gallic comment, comparing the conference in this North Atlantic country with a conception rather than a delivery, adding that the former is more agreeable than the latter.

He said that while the effects may not be visible immediately, they will be visible in the future.

"We did not decide anything," the French president said. "We discussed everything, and there are large existing problems."

"There were many areas on

which we agreed," President Pompidou said, "and some on which we disagreed, but there were greater areas of agreement than disagreement."

With those few words, he left the room without ever approaching the podium set up for him. President Nixon departed the building a few minutes earlier without any comment to newsmen, but he was overheard saying to the French president that he would see him in Paris in the fall.

That was a reference to the grand tour of Europe he has planned for late October or early November, which he had hoped might be turned into an Atlantic summit conference and new Atlantic charter.

While national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger held out some hope yesterday that such a summit might still be held this year, French spokesmen today reemphasized their continuing opposition to it.

They also insisted that the agreement announced yesterday for meetings between deputy foreign ministers of the alliance would be bilateral rather than multilateral.

But Kissinger told pool reporters en route home on the presidential plane that the record shows that the French agreed to a multilateral dep-

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uty foreign ministers conference. Kissinger said he "is absolutely certain" that when the French 'study the records, they will see their spokesmen were wrong."

There will be multilateral meetings on trade, defense, monetary and political issues in the existing forums such as NATO and the International Monetary Fund. And Kissinger said a deputy foreign ministers conference will be held, possibly in July, "to pull all these things together."

Kissinger had said yesterday that the two presidents agreed that meetings of deputy foreign ministers "might be desirable" to see how the results of other meetings among Atlantic officials "fit together for possible incorporation in a declaration of principles."

Kissinger also told newsmen today that the press had the wrong image regarding the Iceland talks. He said they were not held to go into substantive issues, but to get a procedure established.

"We achieved what we set out to do," the President's national security adviser said. White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler termed the final meeting today "very warm and very constructive."

While newsmen were waiting for the meeting to end, Icelanders were passing out literature in the press room denouncing the French, British and Americans for their military policies and demanding the immediate withdrawal of the 3,300 American air and naval personnel at the NATO base at nearby Keflavik. The government has said that the troops should be withdrawn in stages, with all out by mid-1975.

[Icelandic government spokesman Hannes Jonsson said that negotiations aimed at revising the pact under which the United States uses the Keflavik base would begin in mid-June. "Conditions are so much better in the world today that a foreign force is not needed in our country," he said.]

The Nixon-Pompidou conference here was the subject of varied interpretations in the European press, according to reports reaching here. But there appeared to be agree-

ment that the difference between the two old allies were narrowed somewhat and that at least the two presidents understood each other's positions better.

Real differences remain, however. The Nixon-Kissinger proposal for a new Atlantic charter or declaration of principles appeals to Pompidou no more than the proposal for an Atlantic summit meeting during the Nixon grand tour.

The effect of the Watergate controversy on the conference cannot yet be determined, but French officials were aware that Mr. Nixon was eager for a successful conference here to help offset the effect of Watergate.

Whether the French president tried to drive a harder bargain because of Watergate may be known only to President Nixon and Kissinger. Personal relations between the two presidents have been good in the past, and the French leader, who has suffered scandals in his own administration, reportedly had told associates that he would not try to take unfair advantage of his American counterpart at this time.

But Pompidou's basic distrust of American policy and the role it plays in Europe remains as strong as ever, according to those who know him.